

## A DECADE ANALYSIS OF THE IMPACT OF VILLAGE FUND ON POVERTY: A BIBLIOMETRIC APPROACH

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### ABSTRACT

Research on village funds in Indonesia became increasingly widespread after a law on village funds was passed in 2014. Village funds are a program that is expected to positively impact village development by alleviating poverty and equalizing income. This research aims to systematically map the direction of research results on village funds and poverty using quantitative review techniques. This research is a type of systematic literature research using bibliometric VOSviewer. Data collected from 2014 to 2023 resulted in 472 articles eligible for processing. The results show that the development of village fund research related to poverty is quite saturated and has been widely carried out. This research is increasing from year to year, and the current direction of the topic of village funds is mostly related to transparency and allocation. It is necessary to fill the gap in research on village funds and poverty with empirical research and include a more complete model with mediation and moderation.

### Introduction

The history of village funds in Indonesia began in 2014 with the promulgation of Law Number 6 2014 concerning villages (Redaksi DJP, 2021). This law is the legal umbrella for the management of village funds. Village Funds are funds sourced from the State Revenue and Expenditure Budget (APBN) intended for villages, which are transferred through the Regency/City APBD and are used to finance government administration, implementation of development, and community and community empowerment (Ministry of Villages, 2023). Village funds were first distributed in 2015 with a total budget of Rp. 20.7 trillion. This number continues to increase every year. In 2023, the Village Fund budget will reach IDR. 68 trillion.

Before the Village Law existed, villages in Indonesia had received funds from the government, but not directly (Redaksi DJPb, 2021). These funds are channeled through district, city, and provincial governments. It means that the village needs full authority to manage these funds. With the Village Law, villages have full authority to manage village funds. These funds are managed by the Village Consultative Body (BPD) and the Village Government.

Studies regarding village funds, especially in Indonesia, have increased from 2014 until now. Village fund programs in Indonesia have become a unique and challenging issue for researchers (Anam, 2023). A decade has passed, and it is interesting to know the research trends regarding village funds, especially concerning poverty. The latest research in 2023 regarding village funds, which are linked to poverty, found that village funds affect poverty negatively and significantly, as research from Putra et al. (2023) revealed. It can mean that poverty can be reduced when village funds are increased (Anam, 2023; Sutresno et al., 2023). This process of reducing poverty can be explained by an example of strategies the Taeng Village government carried out. Taeng Village government reduces poverty by constructing road and bridge infrastructure, providing training and counseling on women's empowerment, and creating a village fund program for community empowerment and poverty alleviation (Mutmainna et al., 2023). The results culminate in overcoming poverty, hunger, and economic stability.

Research on village funds in Indonesia became increasingly widespread around 2015–2018. This phenomenon is related to the issuance of the 2014 Village Fund Law. In this initial

period, there was much research on the relationship between government village fund policy and its successful implementation. Lewis's (2015) research explains that village funds support decentralization and further reveals the difficulty of implementing and finding the right method for allocating appropriate village funds. The difficulty in allocation is due to the difficulty of determining the appropriate proportion between villages that are very disadvantaged and poor and villages that are not disadvantaged and rich. Apart from that, strict supervision needs to be carried out regarding corruption. These results are further supported by similar research from Suryahadi and Al Izzati (2018), who stated that government policy with village funds is a good program and can reduce poverty. However, even so, this program is not fully running well.

Apart from linking it to poverty, other research on village funds often links it to several outcomes, such as rural development. Research conducted by Hilmawan et al. (2023) investigated whether village funds, village-owned enterprises (BUMDes), and Original Village Income in Indonesia (PADes) improved rural development carried out in 361 villages in Indonesia. Furthermore, research by Rammohan and Tohari (2023) shows that implementing the Indonesian village fund program is related to household consumption expenditure among rural households, especially in agricultural villages. Not only that, the latest village fund research conducted by Sidik and Habibi (2023) found that the village fund program was almost entirely enjoyed by the village ruling class, based on research conducted in Central Java villages. Village funds facilitate the victory of the village ruling class.

Village fund research is not only carried out in Indonesia. Thailand has implemented village funds earlier than Indonesia, even though the program differs. Research by Chandoevrit and Ashakul (2008) revealed that implementing the village fund program in Thailand was proven to be unable to reduce poverty. However, Thailand's village fund program is still a very important lending program for agricultural and pro-poor village groups (Boonperm et al., 2013; Menkhoff & Rungruxsirivorn, 2011). Likewise, China's flagship poverty alleviation program, which began in 2001, funds public investment in villages designated as poor villages based on participatory village planning (Park & Wang, 2010).

Furthermore, China's poverty alleviation program significantly increases government and village-financed investment. Although this program does not increase the income or consumption of poor households, it does increase the income and consumption of rich households. The greater benefits for richer households in these villages are due to better-educated leaders and better-quality village committees.

Although there have been many studies on village funds linked to poverty, studies using bibliometric techniques have yet to discuss the evolution and direction of this research trend. Therefore, it is necessary to fill this gap by adding to the literature and providing a view of publication trends in this field. Apart from that, according to Anam (2023), research related to village funds and poverty can be carried out by focusing on other impacts of village funds in Indonesia apart from poverty, which is important to enrich the ideology of decentralisation (Anam, 2023). Thus, further investigation is needed to find out the direction and trend of research on village funds that has been carried out over the past decade, from 2014 to 2023. Therefore, this research aims to analyze the influence of village funds on poverty to find gaps, current progress, and future research trends.

## Methodology

### Data retrieval and collection

Pulled from Google Scholar via publish or perish, with the keywords "village fund," poverty, Indonesia. Withdrawals from Publish or Perish are carried out twice, considering there are often problems when retrieving large amounts of data. The first withdrawals were from 2014 to 2018, originating from journal publications. The 2014-2018 range resulted in 101 articles. Then, a second withdrawal was carried out with 2019-2023 data, and 500 articles were

obtained. Then, from the two data, sorted from the appropriate material, a total of 499 articles were obtained.

### Sorting and processing data

Several articles, namely 499 collected via Publish or Perish, which are withdrawn from Google Scholar, are continued for selection. Select and sort data with mapping from Vosviewer. Data processing with Vosviewer is divided into two ways: to find out the co-author and the two co-occurrences.

Based on a minimum of two documents, the co-author step gets a total of 64 but selects related ones so that the results display shows only the related co-authors.

The co-occurrence step gives a result of 2585 terms. By choosing a number of occurrences of 7, get a threshold of 113. Next, the selection is based on all the threshold numbers of 113. So, the final corpus result based on appropriate word sorting is 62 items divided into 5 clusters.

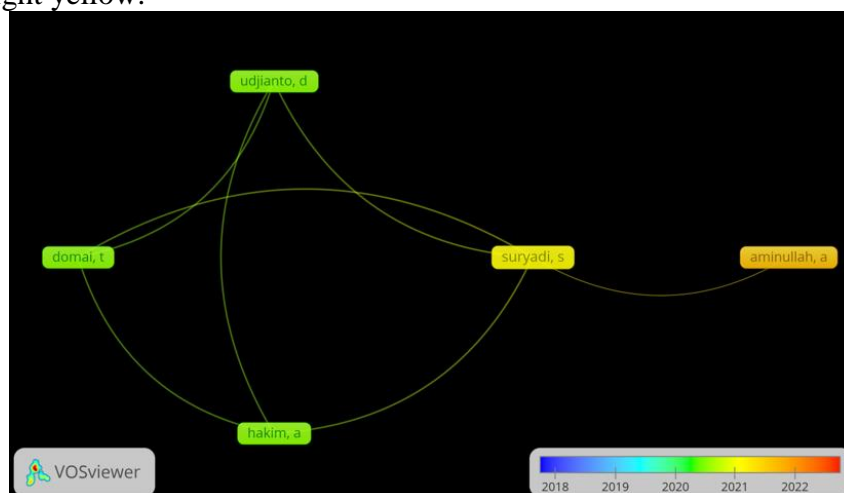
## Result and Discussion

### *Bibliometric mapping co author*

Table 1 shows the order of articles with the number of citations related to village funds and poverty in Indonesia. Writers from Indonesia dominated the five articles with the most citations. Furthermore, the five articles were published in international journals, predominantly in reputable international journals.

The highest number of citations, with 166 citations, was an article from the author Arifin et al. (2020) with research results that village funds increase the formation of village-owned enterprises. However, these village-owned enterprises do not increase job opportunities for village residents. The second article with the most citations is the result of research from Fitriani et al. (2020) regarding gender differences in assessing the accountability of village funds. The next three articles explain the effectiveness of village fund management (Azlina et al., 2017), decentralization which is linked to village fund regulations (Vel & Bedner, 2015), and finally, research which reveals that village funds do not reduce inequality but are able to reduce levels of poverty (Arham & Hatu, 2020).

The mapping of co-authors can be seen in Figure 1. Five authors appear, which indicates co-authorship with a minimum of two documents. The novelty and activeness of writing starts from 2020 to 2022. The novelty of research can be seen from the color green leading to bright yellow.



**Figure 1. Mapping co author**

Source: data processing with VOSviewer

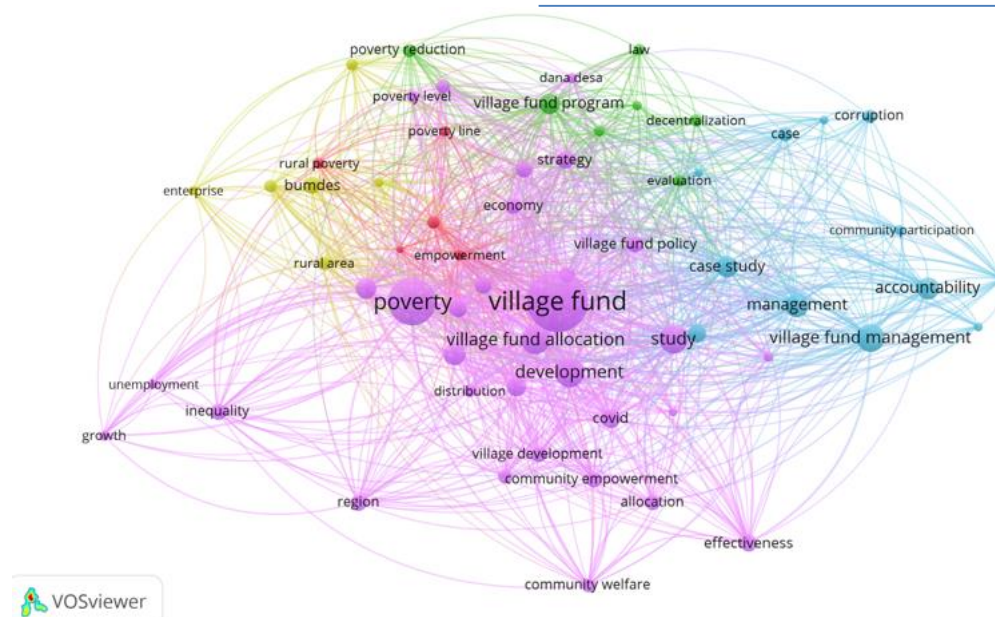
### **Tabel 1 Most cited article on Village fund and Poverty in Indonesia**

Source: Author procesing data

***Bibliometric mapping co-occurrence***

	Number of citation	Document Title	Authors	Publication year	Journal Title
1	166	Village fund, village-owned-enterprises, and employment: Evidence from Indonesia	Arifin, B., Wicaksono, E., Tenrini, R. H., Wardhana, I. W., Setiawan, H., Damayanty, S. A.	2020	Journal of Rural Studies
2	122	Village Fund Accountability and Gendering in Masculine Hegemonic Institution: A Study during Covid-19	Fitriani, D., Shauki, E. R., and Pratiwi, S. C.	2020	ASEAN J of Community Engagement
3	113	The Effectiveness of Village Fund Management (Case Study at Villages in Coastal Areas in Riau)	Azlina, N., Hasan, A., Desmiyanti, and Muda, I	2017	International Jpurnal of Economic Research
4	108	Decentralization and Village Governance in Indonesia: The Return to The Nagari and The 2014 Village Law	Vel, J. A. C. and Bedner, A. W.	2015	The Jurnal of Legal Pluralism and Unofficial Law
5	62	Does village fund transfer address the issue of inequality and poverty? A lesson from Indonesia	Arham, M. A., & Hatu, R.	2020	The Journal of Asian Finance, Economics and Business

The mapping results using Vosviewer, a study of village funds and poverty from 2014 to 2023, formed into 5 clusters of 62 items. This result is in Figure 2; the five clusters are represented in purple, blue, green, yellow, and red.



**Figure 2. co occurrence network visual**  
Source: data processing with VOSviewer

### Cluster one (Red)

The red cluster consists of 32 items; the most prominent word is village fund. The link between village funds and poverty is most visible in this cluster. Then, it continues with the village fund related to allocation and development. Research linking village funds with poverty suggests that village funds can reduce poverty (Ernawati et al., 2021; Saragi et al., 2021), but the level of elasticity after implementation is also getting smaller (Arham & Hatu, 2020), and village funds do not significant in overcoming income inequality (Arham & Hatu, 2020; Ernawati et al., 2021). Research support for village funds in reducing poverty still varies and needs to be stronger; in fact, several studies have found that village funds cannot reduce poverty levels in Indonesia (Imawan & Purwanto, 2021). Furthermore, implementing the village fund program can only partially reduce poverty in Indonesia (Anam et al., 2023), as is the case in Aceh (Azmi et al., 2020).

Furthermore, this cluster also links village fund research and village development. Village development from village funds is widely associated with forming *BUMDes* (Permatasari et al., 2022). However, the role of *BUMDes* has proven to be very weak in influencing village development, and more village funds do not improve the village development index (Hilmawan et al., 2023). This *BUMDes* is closely related to the fourth cluster, namely the yellow cluster.

This red cluster is closely related to research involving the allocation of village funds. Research on village fund allocation is closely linked to previous terms, such as poverty and development. Research by Paellorisky and Solikin (2019) shows the calculation of basic allocations and formulas for allocating village funds to alleviate poverty and develop villages. Meanwhile, Handayani and Badrudin (2019) emphasize evaluating the allocation of village funds, which shows that they have not yet been realized properly and that village funds are unable to alleviate poverty, economic growth, and social prosperity. Apart from that, this results statement is in line with the results of previous research by Digdowiseiso and Afriyanto (2023) that the allocation of village funds has yet to be fully implemented effectively; there is a need for better communication between various parties. Unlike other research, Albahri (2022) conducted research from a different perspective that linked a good information system to allocating village funds.

**Cluster two (Blue)**

The cluster marked in blue consists of 12 items, with the word that often appears as village fund management. This cluster has much to do with managing village funds, such as transparency, accountability, financial management, and even corruption. This management-oriented research involves many case study techniques.

Research on this cluster reveals that accountability and transparency are determining factors for good village fund management (Kristiansen & Komiya, 2022; Moniung et al., 2023; Wafirotn & Septivastuti, 2019). Furthermore, research on whether village funds have been managed with transparency and accountability proves that several regions have done well, such as Bengkalis Sub-District (Iznillah & Basri, 2018), Tanete Village (Bakhtiar, 2021), Jati Village (Tulis et al., 2018), Maitara Village in Central Tidore (Konoras et al., 2021), Karangrejo village in Blitar (Key & Martanti, 2020), and also Lembang Polopadang village (Tahirs, 2023). Moreover, research by Rozandi and Digdowiseiso (2021) shows that with the good use of village funds, Sengkubang village could increase its independent village index (IDM) in 2020 and achieve independent village classification.

However, several areas still need to meet better transparency and accountability in managing village funds, such as Bulukala village (Nasir et al., 2020) and several villages in Jayapura (Kuddy & Lamba, 2022). Accountability and transparency are important for managing village funds because transparency (Sofyani et al., 2022) and accountability (Taufiqi & Ariani, 2022) will increase residents' trust in the village government.

Research relating to this cluster still needs to be more extensive with research models that include moderation or mediation. So, developing a model that explains village fund management needs to be deepened and expanded. Research on village fund management that concerns moderation and mediation has been carried out, namely moderation of prosocial behavior (Diansari et al., 2023), integrity mediation (Raza et al., 2021), and organizational culture as a mediator (Putra et al., 2021).

**Cluster three (green)**

In this cluster, the discussion is more commonly related to village fund programs related to legality. There are seven items included in this cluster.

Research by Chomariah et al. (2016) conducted a study regarding applying the principle of participation in implementing the Village Fund Law. This study adapts to the government's recommendation that village funds are regulations seeking to create community empowerment justice (Jelatut, 2023). Therefore, of course, this empowerment can be carried out with the participation of village communities (Suatmiati & Astori, 2023). The allocation of funds to the village serves as a catalyst, stimulating the community to enhance and leverage its capacities, thereby providing incentives for the development and progress of Caturtunggal Village (Minang et al., 2021).

**Cluster four (yellow)**

This yellow cluster focuses more on "*BUMDes*," the word with the most links in this cluster. The word *BUMDes* is included in the six items forming the yellow cluster, closely related to the red cluster. So this cluster tends to research related to village-owned enterprises. This cluster shows that village funds stimulate the formation of *BUMDes* (Andriani, 2022; Arifin et al., 2020; Srirejeki, 2018). Furthermore, this *BUMDes* influences the expected output from village funds, including reducing unemployment rates, absorbing labor (Andriani, 2022), community empowerment (Srirejeki, 2018), community entrepreneurship (Muryanti, 2020) and even reducing poverty levels. (Azhari et al., 2022).

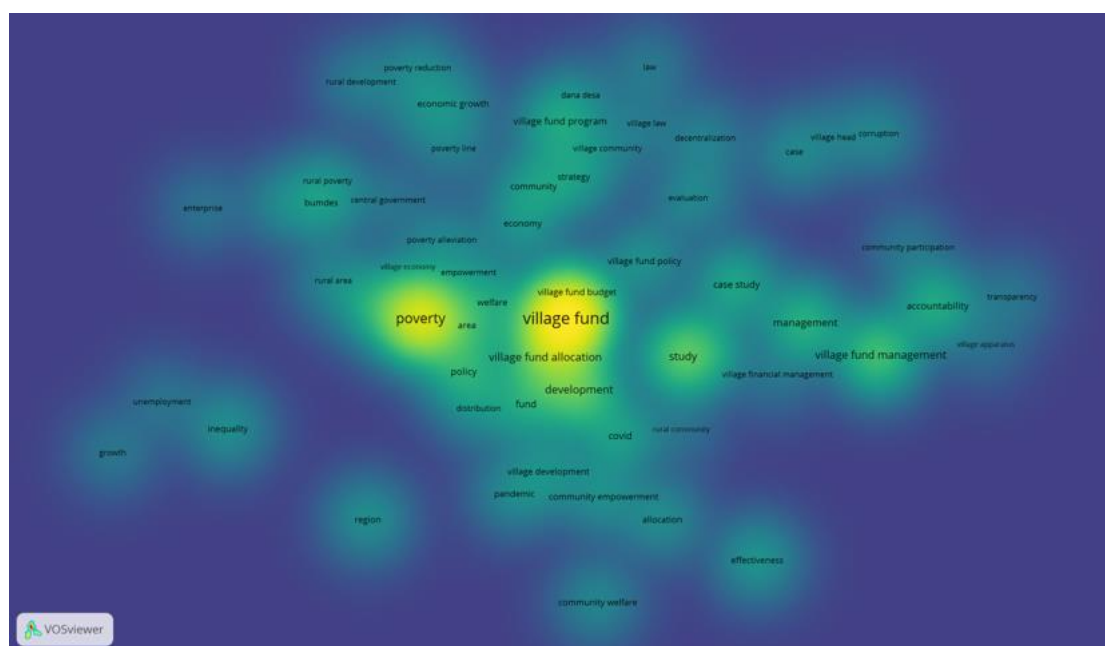
Research on this cluster is also starting to lead to research on the success factors of *BUMDes*. The research of Sofyani et al. (2019) examines the determining factors for the success of *Bumdes*, which places more emphasis on the employees, environment, and management. Even though this research is still very small, there are still future research

opportunities. Likewise, research conducted by Digdowiseio et al. (2020) focuses on a leadership style that is task and relationship-oriented in the successful implementation of village-owned enterprises.

### Cluster five (purple)

The final cluster, with five items, was not directly related to the village fund. The term that often appears is "poverty." This cluster's emphasis on poverty only sometimes relates to village funds but relates to several factors and consequences of poverty. This cluster emphasizes village economics with a delegation that leads to poverty alleviation, village development, and community prosperity (Wibisono et al., 2023). Apart from being related to village funds, this cluster emphasizes poverty, such as alleviating poverty by means other than village funds, not only the method but also the consequences of poverty alleviation.

### *Bibliometric density and overlay co-occurrence*



**Figure 3. co-occurrence density visual**  
Source: data processing with VOSviewer

As seen in Figure 3, the density of research related to village funds and poverty shows that the most frequent words and frequent themes are village funds and poverty. These results show that research linking village funds to poverty is numerous and saturated, as seen from the bright yellow color. However, this does not rule out the possibility of research with the formation of new models involving moderation and mediation because this relationship still needs more moderation and mediation.

The movement of research linking village funds with poverty from 2018 to mid-2022 is shown in Figure 4. This figure shows that research is increasing yearly, as seen from the dark blue color, which is increasingly approaching bright yellow. The increasing research in this area shows researchers' interest, especially with praise from the World Bank regarding the village funding program (Fauzi, 2018). The Indonesian government also claims to show village funds' success (Movanita & Ika, 2018).

Furthermore, it can be seen that the oldest research around 2018 in dark blue is mostly associated with the term "law." These results mean that village fund research around 2018 is linked to the emergence of the village fund law. Next, the research moves to the term "village



also provides views and input for stakeholders and policies on understanding village leaders and maintaining good communication between all entities.

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